

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a reaction mixture comprising a complex of an NS1 protein of influenza virus, or a dsRNA binding fragment thereof, and a synthetic dsRNA of about 16 base pairs in length that binds said protein.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said NS1 protein is an NS1 protein of Influenza A (NS1A).

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 2, comprising a dsRNA binding domain fragment of said NS1A protein.

4. (Original) The composition of claim, 3, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-73 of NS1A.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said dsRNA is formed by intramolecular base pairing within a single-stranded RNA molecule and has a length of about 16 base pairs.

9. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment portion comprises amino acid residues 1-73 of NS1A, and wherein said dsRNA is formed by intramolecular base pairing within a single-stranded RNA molecule and

said dsRNA has a length of about 16 base pairs.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a compound being tested for inhibitory activity against influenza virus.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the NS1 protein or the dsRNA is detectably labeled.

13 – 42 (Cancelled)